

ANALYTICAL ALPHABET

FOR THE

Mexican & Central American Languages.

BY

C. HERMANN BERENDT, M. D.

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Origin and Objects of the Society.

The AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY is permanently established in the City of New York. It was founded, in 1842, by the Hon. ALBERT GALLATIN, JOHN RUSSELL BARTLETT and others. Mr. GALLATIN, for several years Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, was elected its first President, and continued to hold that office until his death, in 1849. He was the principal contributor to its Proceedings, and the most active promoter of its objects.

These objects are: "The prosecution of inquiries into the origin, progress, and characteristics of the various races of men," especially into "the origin and history of the aboriginal American nations, and the phenomena connected therewith; the diversity of languages, the remains of ancient art, and traces of ancient civilization in Mexico, Central America, and Peru; the arts, sciences, and mythology of the American nations; and the earth-works and other monuments of the United States."

The Society, for the furtherance of its objects, desires to enroll, in its list of members and correspondents, gentlemen of kindred tastes and studies in all parts of the world. It is also desirous of making regular exchanges of its Transactions, and other Publications, for those of similar Institutions, — Archæological, Ethnological, Geographical, Statistical, etc.

Foreign Letters and Parcels may be addressed to the Society (through the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.), care of the New York Historical Society; or to HENRY T. DROWNE, 52 Wall Street, New York.

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Note.

Dr. CARL HERMANN BERENDT, of Dantzic, Prussia, emigrated to the United States in 1851. Subsequently he visited Central America and Mexico, and resided for seven years in Vera Cruz, making, occasionally, large excursions into the interior of the country. It was during his stay at Tabasco that he concluded to relinquish the medical profession, after twenty years of constant practice, and dedicate himself to pursuits in natural history, geography, archæology and ethnology; his particular specialty being the study of the Tribes and Languages belonging to the great Maya Family.

In 1866, after having visited the almost unknown territory of Peten, Guatemala, Dr. BERENDT returned to New York, where he remained several months. He left again for Central America on the 22nd of August, 1868, on a journey of exploration, through Tabasco, Chiapas and Guatemala. His collections of natural history are already well known. His geographical surveys in those regions promise to give an entirely new face to the parts of our maps relating to Mexico and Central America.

Dr. BERENDT is not only greatly interested in the Indians, but is much beloved by them. He has lately adopted a little orphan Indian boy of great promise (José Sabino Uc), whom he is educating. Whilst living among the independent Lacandon Indians, he has induced them to settle in society and give up their isolated dwellings in the woods, for village life. His patriotic exertions in this regard were highly appreciated by the Government of Guatemala,—a result the Spanish and native authorities several times sought to bring about, but always without success, because attempted *by force*.

TO DR. BERENDT * belongs the honor of having proposed (in 1866) to D. Joaquín García Icazbalzeta, of Mexico, the plan for the valuable work *Apuntes para un Catalogo de Autores*, that gentleman being the only scholar equal to the task, which has since been so admirably accomplished. His appreciation of the works of Gallatin, Stephens, Squier, Turner, Haven, Trumbull, and others, is manifested in his desire to give full credit to their labors and researches. He has written a number of articles, which have appeared in Petermann's *Geographische Mittheilungen*, and other German periodicals. He has also in preparation, nearly ready for the press, a reproduction of the Maya language, in the form of a voluminous Dictionary of over 2,500 quarto pages in manuscript, with a comparative review of all the Indian languages spoken between the Isthmuses of Tehuantepec and Honduras (embracing more than 600 words in each), which comprises all the languages belonging to the Maya family.

His *Analytical Alphabet for the Mexican and Central American Languages* is herewith presented, very carefully executed in fac-simile for the American Ethnological Society, from the original manuscript, by the American Photo-Lithographic Company. It is printed, however, by the subscriptions of Messrs. George Folsom, Alexander I. Cotheal, Thomas Ewbank, John Torrey, George H. Moore, E. George Squier, Charles C. Jones, Jr., Charles E. West, T. Stafford Drowne, Daniel M. Tredwell, Henry R. Stiles, Charles Rau, Thos. W. Field, Juan N. Navarro, Charles P. Daly, and (the writer) Henry T. Drowne.

NEW YORK, *March 2*, 1869.

* His letters from Merida de Yucatan, of November 21st, 1868, mention the recent discovery of many valuable manuscripts. He had also obtained some very curious particulars with regard to the Maya Indians from an examination of ancient manuscripts found in the Indian villages of that country, and known under the name of *Libro de Chilam Balam*, which he intends, ere long, to communicate to the Society.

✠ MR. FOLSOM, one of the Founders of the Society, and for the last ten years its honored President, died suddenly in Rome, Italy, on Saturday, the 27th of March, 1869. He will long be remembered for his genial interest, his liberality, and efficient services, not only in behalf of this Association, but also of the New York Historical, the American Geographical, and many other kindred Societies in Europe and America. ✠

Dr. C. H. Berendt's Analytical Alphabet for Mexican and Central American Languages

Having been occupied during a number of years with comparative studies of some Mexican and Central-American languages, the want of an available alphabet induced me to invent one for my own use. By continued linguistic researches I was enabled to correct and complete it. During the last two years I have had no reason for further amendments, though I had occasion to hear and to write down more of the languages of Central America.

My basis is the Spanish alphabet and pronunciation; my method is the analysis. I call such letters, as I am unable to dissolve, elements, and I adopt one sign for each.

Consonants.

1. Elementary Consonants.... They are:
b d f g h j j̃ k l m n p r s t v x y.
g has always the hard sound as in gig. - h is the English or German h, the spiritus asper of the Greek. - j is German ch as in ich. - j̃ is French j as in jeu, or French g as in rouge and English x as in secure. - x is English sh, French ch or German sch.

2. Combined Consonants, expressed in digraphs by juxtaposition of the elements. - ks is English x as in tax. - ny is the Spanish ñ. - ly is the Spanish ll. - dj is the Italian g before e and i or English j as in jail. - ls is the German x. - tx is English ch as in

church and also the Spanish ch.

Note. In most cases it is irrelevant, whether we take such a digraph for a compound consonant or for a mere juxtaposition of two consonants. We might call **ks** in English, **pf** in German, **tl** in Mexican either one or the other. But I accept **ts** and **tx** as compound consonants as these in their combination are subject to a certain modification.

3. Modified Consonants.—A guttural modification is marked by a small circle below the line. **j** is guttural **j** as in caja (Span.) in buch (Ger.) or in Schilchen (Swiss German).—**k** is guttural **k**.—**ʔ** is guttural **ʔ**, as in wrong, our.—The so-called nasal modification is marked by a point under the line **n** is nasal **n** as in bon (Turk.) or as **ng** in sing.—A lipsped modification is marked by a cedilla. **ş** is the lipsped **s** as the Spanish **z**.—**t̸** and **d̸** would be the signs for the common sound of hard and soft English **th**, although correctly spoken it is **t̸s** or **d̸s**.—**ʃ** is the soft **s** as in amuse or **ʒ** as in frozen. The German **s** as in sand.—Where I found it desirable to distinguish the **ʔ** vibrated, with the point of the tongue, from the common **ʔ**, which is produced by vibration of the body of the tongue and from the unvibrated **ʔ** often heard in incorrect speech, I have used the sign **ʔ̸** for the first and **ʔ** for the last.—A peculiar modification, found in the Maya-languages, is marked by a bar, crossing the letter horizontally. It consists in a short interruption of sound after the pronunciation of the consonant and before the following vowel is heard.

These consonants, the consonantes heridas of Spanish authors on the *Maya*, I call cut or broken consonants. *k* is the cut *k*; *p* is the cut *p*; *t* is the cut *t*; *ts* is the cut *ts*; *tx* is the cut *tx*. Omitting from the sentence break in the letters brex and pronouncing the remainder kin, gives exactly the sound of *kin*. The same experiment made with the sentences leap on, cut off, reach in and kratzen (Germ.) gives the sound of *pon*, *tof*, *txin*, *tsan*. The distinction between the simple and the cut consonant is important. For instance *kan* means snake and *kun* yellow in *Maya*.

Note. The peculiar click with the tongue which occurs in some North American languages, may be another modification, or perhaps a new element. As I have never heard it from an Indian's mouth, I have no opinion to give about it.

Vowels.

1. Elementary Vowels: *a, e, i, o, u* with their continental sound. If desirable distinction can be made by using the prosodical signs for long and short. — *ā* as in father; *ä* as in hat (Germ.). — *ē* as in cedro (Span.), or roh (Germ.), and also as ey in they; *ĕ* as in met. — *ī* as in lee; *î* as in pin. — *ō* as in stone; *ö* as in not. — *ū* as in fool; *ü* as in full.

Note. The vowel signs and particularly *e* represent in our European languages rather different sounds. If we were to carry out consequently the analysis of their vowel-sounds, it would be necessary to introduce the German vowels *ä, ö, ü* both long and short into our alphabet. But that, I fear, would make it unpalatable for most German students. For our present purpose I have joined

sufficient the definition of continental vowel-sounds as given by *Go. Lill's* in the *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*, No. 160.

2. Modified Vowels. $\bar{a}$ between a and o . - $\bar{a}$ as a in talk; $\bar{a}$ as in what. - $\bar{e}$ between e and i , as e in college. - $\bar{o}$ between the German $\ddot{o}$ and $\ddot{u}$; $\bar{o}$ as u in urge and $\bar{ö}$ as in but, the latter often more of a groan or an humming, than an articulated vowel.

3. Combinations of Vowels. I distinguish:
 a. True diphthongs, combined of vowels, which change their elementary sound, merging in a new one; for instance: au in baum (Germ.), as ow in how (Engl.) and ei in heit (Germ.) as i in peine, etc. Those very rarely occur in American languages. I mark them with a bow at the bottom and would write: baum, haw, beil, pein.
 b. False diphthongs, to wit: combinations of elementary vowels in one syllable, which do not lose their peculiar sound and are pronounced one after another; most common in American languages, as also in Spanish. One of the elements is always predominant, the other accessory or half mute. I write the latter half size and elevated above the line. For instance: the Spanish words baul, reina, bien I would write ba^ul, reiⁿa, bieⁿ. - In languages of the Maya family they are often formed by a repetition of the same vowel, and constitute a remarkable distinction; kan is make and k^aan is sky in Maya. The Mexican word for great written by authors huey, quicy or wey is pronounced "ei" in one syllable. So I would write buei for the Spanish monosyllable buoy.

Note. Two juxtaposed vowels of equal size in the same word without the bow at the bottom, indicate that they belong to two different syllables, for instance *ia* in the Spanish word *sabía* (*knew*), which has three syllables while *sabía* (*otherwise*) has only two. — *e* and *i* form in *bein* (Germ) a true diphthong in *reina* a false diphthong in the above established sense, and in *reinkorporasion* (Span.) they belong to two different syllables. In writing thus I avoid the use of hyphen and diæresis which I need occasionally for other purposes.

Marks of Punctuation.

The accent is used according to the rule in Spanish, to wit: all words ending with a consonant have the accent on the last syllable; all polysyllables ending with a vowel on the penult, if they appear without accent. This sign is used exclusively to indicate exceptions from that rule and placed in such cases on the vowel of the accentuated syllable. For example: Paris, Granada, Lóndon, Méksiko, Txirikí.

The apostrophe marks the contraction of a word by the omission of a letter or letters.

The hyphen is occasionally used to mark compound words.

It is obvious, that new elements and new modifications of elements occurring in languages not yet examined, might be added without altering in the least the established analytical alphabet.

Synopsis
of the Analytical Alphabet.

a	ā as in <u>father</u> . - ă as in <u>hat</u> . (Germ.)
ā	ā as in <u>talk</u> . - ǎ as in <u>what</u> .
b	as in <u>boy</u> .
d	as in <u>did</u> . - - dj as j in <u>jail</u> .
e	ē as in <u>cedro</u> (Span.) and as ey in <u>they</u> . - ě as in <u>net</u> .
e	as the first e in <u>college</u> .
f	as in <u>fine</u> .
g	as in <u>gig</u> .
h	as in <u>hand</u> .
i	î as ee in <u>bel</u> . - ĭ as in <u>pin</u> .
j	as ch in <u>ich</u> (Germ.)
j	as j in <u>caja</u> (Span) and as ch in <u>brock</u> (Germ.)
j	as j in <u>jeu</u> (French) and as z in <u>seizure</u> .
k	as in <u>kirk</u> . - c in <u>Maya</u> . c or qu in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
k	is the guttural k. - k in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
k	is the cut k. - k in <u>Maya</u> . - ʒ in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
k	is the guttural k. - ʒ in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
l	as in <u>lull</u> . - ly as ll in <u>llano</u> (Span.)
m	as in <u>mumie</u> .
n	as in <u>noon</u> . - ny as ñ in <u>baño</u> (Span.)
n	as n in <u>bon</u> (French) and as ng in <u>sing</u> .
o	ō as in <u>stone</u> . - ȯ as in <u>not</u> .
o	ō as in <u>urge</u> . - ȯ as in <u>but</u> .
p	as in <u>pipe</u> .
p	is the cut p.
r	as in <u>rye</u> .
r	as in <u>our</u> .

S	as in <u>sort</u> . - ks as x in <u>tax</u> .
ſ	is the <u>looped s</u> .
j	is the soft s, as in <u>amuse</u> and in <u>sand</u> . (Germ.)
t	as in <u>tight</u> .
t̃	is the cut t - th in <u>Maya</u> . - tt in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
ts	as z in <u>Zopf</u> (Germ.). - t̃ or t̃z in <u>Maya</u> etc.
t̃s	is the cut ts. - ɔ in <u>Maya</u> . - t̃ or t̃ in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
tx	as ch in <u>church</u> . - ch in <u>Maya</u> and <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
t̃x	is the cut tx. - ch̃ in <u>Maya</u> . - th̃ in <u>Cakchiquel</u> .
u	ū as oo in <u>foot</u> . - ü as in <u>full</u> .
v	as in <u>vire</u> .
x	as sh in <u>shoe</u> and as ch̃ in <u>chien</u> . (French)
y	as in <u>year</u> and as j in <u>jahr</u> . (Germ.)

P.S. Although not intended for it, this alphabet, tried on some languages of North America has answered for their writing and I believe it likely to answer also for South American languages. It can be used without further explanation or alteration to write the Spanish and Italian languages, and, if we exclude too nice and subtle distinctions, the introduction of the German ä, ö, ü, long and short, would make it suitable also for German, French and English and their dialects; if for no other purpose, perhaps for orthoëpic explanation from one language into another

New York, June 30, th 1868.

D. C. H. Berenst

The Lords Prayer.

In Maya: ka yumé, yan-etx ti kaanoob, kilitxkuntabak a kabá, tak k'ókol a' aja'ilil; ulskintabak a' olaj ti luum haix ti kaane; tsa ka samalkin waj toon jelelae, satex ix ka paxil, bai ka satsik ti k'ajpaxoob, maix a patik ka lubul ti luntabale jéwak lukeson itxil lobil.

In Spanish: padre nuestro, ke estas en los siélos; santificado sea tu nombre; venga a nos el tu reino; ágase tu voluntad así en la tierra como en el sielo; el pan nuestro de cada día dánosle oí; i perdónanos nuestras déudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudóres; i no nos déjes kaer en tentasion, mas libranos de mal.

In German: fäter unser, dar du bist im himmel, geheiliget sei dein name; dein reich komme; dein wille gerehe vi im himmel, also auch auf erden; unser tägliches brot gib uns heute; unt fergib uns unsere xult, vi wir fergäben unsern xuldigern; unt füre uns nicht in fersüjung, sondern erlöse uns von dem übel.

[At a regular Meeting of the American Ethnological Society, held in Cooper Institute, New York, on Tuesday evening, November 10th 1868:-

It was Resolved, That the Thanks of the Society are eminently due to Dr. C. Hermann Prendt, for his very interesting and valuable Manuscript of the Analytical Alphabet for the Mexican and Central American Languages:-

Also Resolved, That the said Alphabet be Photo-Lithographed for the Society, and that it be referred to a Special Committee, with power, viz: Messrs. Alexander S. Cotheal, Charles C. Jones Jr., and Henry T. Drowne.

- Extract from the Minutes. Am. R. files. Rec. Sec.]

The Revised and Amended Constitution
OF THE
AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 13TH, 1867.

ARTICLE I.—*Name.*

This SOCIETY (established in 1842, by Albert Gallatin, John Russell Bartlett, George Folsom, Alexander I. Cotheal, Francis L. Hawks, Theodore Dwight, Edward Robinson, Charles Welford, William W. Turner, Thomas Ewbank, Henry R. Schoolcraft, Alexander W. Bradford and John L. Stephens), shall be called the AMERICAN ETHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

ARTICLE II.—*Objects.*

The objects of this Society shall comprise inquiries into the origin, progress, and characteristics of the various races of man.

ARTICLE III.—*Members.*

This Society shall consist of three classes of Members, Resident, Corresponding and Honorary. Resident members shall consist of persons residing in the City of New York or its vicinity. Corresponding and Honorary Members shall consist of persons residing either in the United States or in foreign countries. All classes of Members shall be elected by ballot, unless it be dispensed with by unanimous consent. In case of a ballot, two negatives shall exclude.

ARTICLE IV.—*Dues.*

Every Resident Member shall, on his election, pay into the treasury the sum of five dollars as an initiation fee. He shall also pay the sum of five dollars as annual dues.

ARTICLE V.—*Officers.*

The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Treasurer and a Librarian—who shall be elected annually by ballot, at the first meeting in every year. Seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VI.—*Executive Committee.*

The President and Recording Secretary, *ex officio*, and three other members to be elected annually, shall constitute an Executive Committee for the transaction of business committed to them, and for general oversight and charge of the business affairs of the Society. This Committee shall report at each general meeting.

ARTICLE VII.—*Standing Committees.*

There shall be two Standing Committees of the Society, to consist of five Members each, to be elected annually, viz.: the Committee on Publication, and the Committee on Nominations. The latter shall receive all nominations, with the proper evidence of fitness, etc., and at subsequent meetings they may, at their discretion, report the same to the Society for its action.

ARTICLE VIII.—*Meetings.*

The meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, from the months of October to June inclusive, at such time and place as shall be determined by the Executive Committee. During the months of November, February, and May, there shall be held public meetings, for which special preparation shall be made, and to which persons specially interested in Ethnology shall be invited. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the care of the necessary arrangements for these public meetings.

ARTICLE IX.—*Amendments.*

This Constitution may be amended by a vote of three-fourths of the Members present at any regular meeting, provided notice of such proposed amendment, or amendments, be given at a previous meeting.